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LATE NEWS 1/

The Government of India announced that peanut exports are banned until further notice. This action was taken in view of the food situation in that country and the need to conserve for use in India all available foodstuffs.

Denmark will send shortly a delegation to Moscow for the purpose of negotiating a trade agreement. The main objective is to obtain raw materials and oilcake in return for Danish agricultural products. In view of present negotiations for a long-term agreement with the British, the only way the Danes can provide agricultural products for Russia is by increasing production which in turn is dependent on obtaining oilcake and fertilizer.

Bolivia has reestablished its control over wheat flour sales in order to conserve the dwindling supplies of wheat and flour. Bolivia is almost entirely dependent on imported wheat and flour and to date has been unable to contract for its 1946 requirements.

Cuba's export surpluses of agricultural products will probably consist of only sugar, tobacco, bananas, pineapples, and a little grapefruit until next winter's export season for fresh vegetables begins. The sugar harvest of the 1946 crop is now about 85 percent completed and production is forecast at about 4.6 million short tons of raw sugar. This should leave about 4.2 million tons for export. Severe shortages of imported products now prevail and will probably continue throughout the summer. The principal shortages are rice, lard, vegetable oil, soap, tallow, malt, and fertilizer. An adequate allocation of wheat flour from the United States is anticipated, provided Cuba accepts the United States sugar purchase offer.

Industrial crops suffered greater setbacks in Russia during the war than any other branch of agriculture, according to a recent statement by the Soviet Minister of Industrial Crops. The 5-year Plan contemplates not only restoring production to prewar levels but surpassing it, he stated. In 1946 the plan is to increase the procurement of cotton by 23 percent, sugar beets by 66 percent, and castor beans by seven times compared with procurements in 1945. The Government is stimulating production by promising larger amounts of bread and manufactured products to farmers.

A new Finnish-Soviet trade agreement was signed on April 30. The Soviet Union will deliver to Finland 110,000 short tons of grain of which 66,000 tons will be rye and 44,000 tons wheat. In addition, the Soviet Union will deliver appreciable quantities of fertilizers, salt, sugar, coal, and certain raw materials needed by Finnish industries. Finland in turn will deliver wooden houses, cellulose paper, paper products, lumber, and metals.

1/ This section is continued on page 333.

WORLD COTTON CROP SMALLEST SINCE 1923

World cotton production in 1945-46 is now estimated at 21,650,000 bales (of 478 pounds net), compared with a preliminary estimate of 22,650,000 bales released in November 1945. The 1945-46 crop is 12 percent less than the 1944-45 production of 24,615,000 bales, 30 percent below the 5-year (1935-1939) average of nearly 31 million, and is the smallest world crop since 1923-24. The United States crop was 3,215,000 bales less than in 1944-45, and total foreign production shows a net increase of 250,000 bales.

Information available concerning 1946 cotton crops including statements of official goals point to a larger acreage than in 1945 in the Northern Hemisphere. The increase might total as much as 3 million acres for the principal countries excluding India and Mexico, where no increases are anticipated. Increases of varying extent may be expected in African colonies as efforts are being made to return cotton cultivation to the prewar level.

In the United States the 1945 cotton acreage harvested was 13.8 percent less than that of the previous year, the decline being attributed to excessive rain at planting time, a shortage of farm labor, and some shift to food and feed crops. The yield of 251 pounds per acre in 1945 also was considerably below the 1944 yield of 293.5 pounds. Smaller yields were caused by excessive rain that continued into the picking season, heavier damage by boll weevil than in 1944, and lack of sufficient labor to pick the crop before considerable weather damage was sustained.

The 1946 cotton acreage goal is 20.2 million acres, compared with the 1945 goal of 20.5 million acres and with 17.7 million acres actually in cultivation on July 1, 1945.

Cotton acreage and production in India were slightly less in 1945-46 than in 1944-45 when acreage and production were reduced by about one-third as a result of the food production program and the relatively low prices for cotton.

A preliminary estimate places the 1945-46 crop at about 2.9 million bales of 478 pounds, or 680,000 bales less than estimated mill consumption of Indian cotton 1945-46. The existing food shortage made it necessary for the Government to continue its food production campaign into 1945-46. Unfavorable weather in many growing areas was partly responsible for the slight reduction in the 1945-46 crop.

The need for increased food production is still great in India. The Indian Central Cotton Committee announced on February 26, 1946, that it would give whole-hearted support to continuation of the food production campaign this year, despite the desirability for some increase in cotton cultivation. The Government of India, early in March, urged all Provincial

COTTON: World acreage and production by continents and countries, average 1935-1939 and annual 1942-1945

Continent and country	Acreage, Year beginning August 1					Production a/, Year beginning August 1				
	Average 1935-1939	1942	1943	1944 b/	1945 b/	Average 1935-1939	1942	1943	1944 b/	1945 b/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
North America:										
United States	27,788	22,602	21,652	20,009	17,241	13,149	12,817	11,427	12,230	9,015
Mexico	725	886	931	1,046	890	334	458	515	520	428
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	22	13	13	10	13
British West Indies	20	17	16	16	-	5	4	3	4	4
Puerto Rico	2	7	10	-	-	1	2	2	1	-
Salvador	6	27	33	-	-	4	14	19	16	-
Nicaragua c/	9	5	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	2
Guatemala	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
Estimated total d/	28,706	23,646	22,743	21,188	18,256	13,522	13,316	11,984	12,786	9,482
South America:										
Brazil	5,562	5,180	6,200	6,000	5,000	1,956	2,172	2,700	1,576	1,950
Argentina	770	831	913	887	881	289	498	553	332	355
Peru e/	428	308	326	326	-	384	259	310	325	320
Paraguay	111	99	104	-	126	40	39	72	40	37
Colombia c/	98	84	124	-	-	23	20	24	13	26
Venezuela c/	50	55	69	58	-	11	17	16	16	18
Ecuador c/	40	39	39	-	-	13	11	8	7	7
Estimated total d/	7,061	6,598	7,777	7,513	6,574	2,716	3,016	3,683	2,309	2,713
Asia and Australia:										
Soviet Union	5,087	-	-	-	-	3,430	-	-	-	-
India f/	24,204	19,203	21,086	14,803	14,600	4,643	3,935	4,401	2,965	2,900
Burma	428	-	387	-	-	97	70	90	85	28
China and Manchuria	7,038	-	-	5,600	5,600	2,855	-	-	1,600	1,660
Korea	564	834	776	752	705	180	193	205	228	163
Turkey	667	790	678	720	740	275	340	325	231	166
Iran	442	297	297	290	303	59	34	42	69	71
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	c/ 49	22	20	-	-
Syria and Lebanon	93	30	35	40	-	31	13	16	13	-
Iraq c/	53	28	28	18	-	11	4	3	2	-
French Indochina	36	-	-	-	-	6	8	8	-	-
Netherlands Indies	27	-	-	-	-	9	10	7	11	-
Australia	53	40	16	8	-	11	7	6	2	-
Estimated total d/	38,931	32,000	32,058	25,186	25,885	11,670	8,863	8,143	7,463	7,370

Africa:											
Egypt	1,821	733	740	885	1,020	1,893	877	740	962	1,091	
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	439	341	319	347	-	248	274	175	290	210	
Uganda	1,477	883	1,234	1,072	1,217	281	94	157	228	218	
Tanganyika	-	-	-	-	-	50	43	32	21	34	
Nyasaland	84	-	-	-	-	12	12	5	7	-	
Kenya	-	-	-	-	-	13	5	5	7	3	
Belgian Congo	874	-	-	863	-	172	198	141	170	-	
French Equatorial Africa c/	390	-	-	667	-	40	81	79	102	85	
French West Africa	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	14	21	-	
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	g/ 33	92	94	-	-	
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	36	27	21	13	-	
Angola c/	73	-	-	-	-	13	25	23	-	-	
French Morocco	1	3	8	7	-	h/	2	2	4	-	
Algeria	1	4	7	-	-	h/	1	2	-	-	
Union of South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	2	h/	1	1	-	
Southern Rhodesia c/	2	6	-	6	-	h/	1	1	1	-	
Estimated total d/	6,126	4,888	4,997	4,970	5,240	2,819	1,756	1,499	1,947	1,993	
Europe:											
Greece	168	22	90	80	67	65	-	12	34	31	
Bulgaria	85	54	48	48	-	35	11	8	11	-	
Italy	56	84	58	37	30	21	20	11	9	5	
Spain c/	46	100	129	148	72	10	20	21	27	8	
Rumania i/	8	37	77	110	141	2	7	12	22	25	
Yugoslavia	8	14	-	15	10	3	5	-	-	2	
Estimated total d/	383	318	425	443	395	139	74	71	110	92	
Estimated world total	81,207	67,450	68,000	60,300	56,350	30,866	27,025	25,380	24,615	21,650	

Compiled from official sources, publications of The International Institute of Agriculture, and credible trade sources, and includes estimates by this Office.
a/ United States production in bales of 500 pounds gross (478 to 480 pounds net); others in bales of 478 pounds net.
b/ Preliminary.
c/ Partly estimated.
d/ All sub-totals include rough estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available.
e/ All figures for Peru are revised by moving the entire series back one year as more than half of the crop is picked prior to August 1 each year.
f/ Figures do not include estimates of unpressed cotton consumed by India mills and cotton consumed in hand-spinning industries, usually amounting to a combined total of roughly 600,000 to 800,000 bales.
g/ Exports.
h/ Less than 500 bales.
i/ Figures for 1942 to date do not include estimates for areas ceded to Bulgaria in 1941.

Governments to renew restrictions to keep cotton acreage on a level not exceeding that of 1945-46 in order to meet the imperative need for greater food production. Government support prices for cotton are too low to encourage production and purchases have been very small.

Egypt's 1945 cotton crop, equivalent to 1,091,000 bales, represents an increase of 14 percent over 1944, but was little more than half of the prewar average. The need for local production of food crops is still strong in Egypt as in the war years. There is a growing demand, however, for abandonment of cotton acreage restrictions (imposed since early in 1942), because of high prices for cotton which is the backbone of Egyptian economy, and the fact that grain cultivation on the irrigated land usually devoted to cotton is not economical.

Acreage restrictions were relaxed to some extent in 1945, resulting in an increase of 135,000 acres. Restrictions were further relaxed in 1946 to permit the planting of about 67,000 additional acres. Estimates by private sources, based on sales of cotton seed for planting, and a reported reduction in wheat acreage, indicate that the increase may be at least 100,000 acres. No enforcement agency was ever established to measure or investigate planted acreage. The area planted to Karnak is believed to have been increased by one-third, or 200,000 acres, while the area planted to Giza 7 is reported to have decreased by about 80 percent, or 115,000 acres. Moderate increases are reported for Menoufi and Ashmouni. Weather this year has been satisfactory to the middle of April.

The 1945-46 cotton crop in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was reduced by unfavorable weather to around 210,000 bales, or 80,000 less than that of 1944-45. The 1945-46 crop was all Sakellaridis except for 3,000 to 4,000 bales of American type. The British Government purchased the entire production during the war years, part of which was sold to the Government of India. This arrangement was to continue for 1 year, after the end of the war.

Dry weather in British East Africa with some increase in plant diseases caused a small decrease in production in Uganda and Kenya which was offset by an increase in Tanganyika. Yields per acre, however, were smaller as total acreage was increased by around 14 or 15 percent. The 1945-46 crop of 262,000 bales is still considerably less than the 1935-1939 average of 356,000 bales.

The 1945-46 crop in southern Brazil (about 80 percent of the total) is estimated at around 1,535,000 bales, compared with the small crop of 1.1 million bales a year ago. Drought prevailed in the cotton areas during the growing period but it was not as severe as in the previous year, and very little replanting was necessary. Insect damage was relatively low this year. Excessive rain caused some damage in February just before picking was started, and picking was delayed by some rainfall in March. Latest reports indicate that the weather has been favorable in recent weeks and production may exceed present estimates if dry weather continues.

A diversion of cotton land to corn, rice, beans, and other food crops, is the principal cause of cotton acreage reduction. Prices of these commodities are favorable because of a strong local demand. Sales of cottonseed to farmers by official distribution agencies were discontinued after December 20, 1945, and may have prevented some late planting.

The 1945-46 crop in northeast Brazil, which was picked late in 1945, is estimated at 415,000 bales, compared with 470,000 bales in 1944-45. Cotton production in this part of Brazil has followed a downward trend for several years, largely because of frequent droughts and migration of labor to south Brazil.

The 1945-46 cotton crop of 355,000 bales in Argentina is slightly larger than the abnormally small crop of 332,000 bales reported for 1944-45. A much larger acreage was intended this season but because of dry weather at planting time, acreage actually planted was slightly below 1944-45. Drought and locust damage occurring during the growing period were followed by excessive rain during part of the picking period. Yields are smaller than previously expected and stained fiber is more prevalent than usual.

The 1945-46 cotton crop now being picked in Peru is expected to be about equal to the estimate of 325,000 bales for 1944-45. Weather conditions were favorable when picking was begun in northern areas and insect damage is reported to be low. The supply of water for irrigation, however, is lower than normal, particularly in the Piura district where the Pima variety predominates. The shortage of water may cause smaller yields in areas where the plants are not yet matured.

A 20-percent acreage restriction, decreed by law for the 1943 and subsequent crops under the terms of a United States-Peruvian cotton purchase agreement, was extended to the 1946 crop to prevent a deficit in local food production. Cotton is planted and picked in various parts of Peru, practically the year around. More than half of it is picked before the first of August, however, and for this reason the entire production series is being moved back a year to conform with the August-July basis used for world production tables.

In Paraguay, about 30 percent of the 1945-46 cotton crop was destroyed by locusts and about half of this loss was offset by replanting. The latest estimate is about 37,000 bales, compared with 40,000 in 1944-45. Early drought was relieved by rains late in the growing period and picking was delayed in some areas by heavy rainfall.

Mexico's 1945 cotton crop of 428,000 bales was considerably less than earlier estimates and nearly 100,000 bales less than in 1944. Acreage was reduced by 156,000 acres from 1,046,000 to 890,000. The principal causes of the reduction were a shortage of water for irrigation at planting time, late rains during the picking season, and losses resulting from delayed picking. Restrictions on credit for cotton growing and a

small reduction in government purchase prices were partly responsible for the decrease in acreage.

Early reports for 1946 indicate a planted area of about 825,000 acres for 1946 which normally would yield nearly 400,000 bales.

In the Soviet Union a recent statement by the Minister of Technical Crops published in "Socialist Republic" May 1, 1946, expressed in terms of seed cotton, indicated a 1945 crop of 1,878,000 bales from 2,995,000 acres. This is somewhat lower than indicated by the fragmentary information previously received. An increase of about 200,000 acres is planned for 1946.

Acreage and production data available for the war years also were fragmentary and difficult to reconcile, but indicate that production varied between 1.5 million and 2.2 million bales during 1942 to 1944.

The 1945 crop in China, including Manchuria, was recently revised to 1,660,000 bales, compared with about 1.6 million in 1944. Cotton production estimates for all the war years are not available but incomplete data indicate that the 1942 crop was about 2.2 million bales and in 1943 around 1.5 million bales. Current reports place the probable 1946 crop at nearly 1.7 million bales, or slightly larger than those of the past 2 years.

Cotton production in Iran was estimated at 71,000 bales, compared with 69,000 the year before. Estimates for earlier years were recently revised on the basis of statements in a report from Iran indicating that figures previously reported as "raw" cotton related to seed cotton rather than to lint.

A report received recently from Korea indicates that cotton production during the war was maintained somewhat about the prewar level of 180,000 bales, but declined to 163,000 bales in 1945. More than half of the crop is usually consumed on hand spindles, in the manufacture of mattresses, etc.

Cotton production in European countries was generally smaller in 1945 owing to a severe drought and slow recovery from war conditions. Cotton cultivation in Italy is being virtually abandoned as far as government encouragement is concerned. The need for greater food production is also a limiting factor for cotton cultivation, but present indications are that production in Bulgaria, Greece, Rumania, and Spain, may reach prewar levels in 1 to 3 year.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee included Joseph A. Becker, chairman, C. M. Purves, A. W. Palmer, P. K. Norris, Charles H. Barber, L. Volin, and Raymond T. Moyer.

WORLD RICE CROP MUCH BELOW AVERAGE

World rice production dropped to 6,200 million bushels in 1945-46, compared with 6,800 million the year before and with the prewar (1935-36 to 1939-40) average of 7,400 million. In 1946-47, however, some gain in world rice production is expected. Rice is the principal food in the diet of nearly one-half of the world's population and the short 1945-46 crop has been a major factor in the present world food shortage. The small harvest was caused not only by wartime impediments to sowing and harvesting but also by droughts in some countries. The greatest deficit is in Asia, where the decline in production in unprecedented. Harvests in Europe also were materially reduced. On the other hand, crop production in the Western Hemisphere, increased because of greater world demand and favored by generally good weather, reached an all-time high. Africa also produced a record crop.

The world exportable supplies of rice available in 1946 are estimated at only 2 to 4 billion pounds, in comparison with Asia's 40-billion-pound shortage. This deficit is taken as equal to the prewar annual imports of 12 billion pounds plus the reduced production in 1945-46 in importing countries. These relatively small export supplies are available from the 1945-46 production of the Western Hemisphere and Africa and old-crop rice in the prewar surplus area of the Orient.

In Asia the harvest of 5,800 million bushels (185 billion pounds milled), almost 10 percent smaller than that of last year, was 1,300 million bushels (40 billion pounds) below prewar. The lack of rice supplies on that Continent, therefore, is serious in China, India, Japan, the Philippine Islands, Ceylon, British Malaya, the Netherlands Indies, and minor areas. Famine is reported in some parts of these countries, and the scarcity is expected to develop in additional areas as supplies become exhausted before other crops are harvested.

In the prewar exporting countries of Asia, production is reported to be only sufficient for domestic consumption. The 1945-46 crops of Burma, Siam, and French Indochina are from 40 to 70 percent of normal, leaving virtually no rice for export. The bulk of this production was harvested from December to April. Supplies in these countries from previous crops available for export in 1946 are estimated at 1 to 2 billion pounds, in contrast with exports of 12 billion before the war. Korea and Formosa, the other former surplus countries in the prewar period, exported 4 billion pounds of brown rice annually, but now the outturn about equals domestic consumption.

The largest deficit is in China, which produced 35 percent of the world's rice before the war. Production is estimated to be below the average prewar crop of 2,620 million bushels (83 billion pounds) by 460 million bushels, or 15 billion pounds of milled rice. Before the war, when a series of bumper crops was harvested, production did not

ROUGH RICE: World acreage, yield per acre, and production, averages 1930-31 to 1939-40, annual 1943-44 to 1945-46 a/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre		Production				
	Average					Average		Average				
	1930-31 to 1934-35	1935-36 to 1939-40	1943-44	1944-45 b/	1945-46 b/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1945-46 b/	1930-31 to 1934-35	1935-36 to 1939-40	1943-44	1944-45 b/	1945-46 b/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
North America:												
United States	883	1,004	1,468	1,471	1,506	49.7	46.6	41,572	49,852	64,843	68,161	70,160
Mexico	84	95	162	170	167	42.2	(36.7)	3,478	4,007	5,609	5,801	(6,125)
Cuba c/	36	45	84	80	(70)	21.6	(29.3)	935	965	2,222	1,778	2,051
Dominican Republic c/	(35)	(70)	82	116	111	-	(29.6)	1,517	2,905	3,185	(3,020)	(3,290)
El Salvador	22	25	46	58	-	-	- d/	314	639	1,197	934	-
Others	(220)	(250)	(270)	(270)	(300)	-	-	(5,200)	(5,700)	(7,200)	(6,600)	(8,900)
Estimated total	1,280	1,490	2,110	2,170	2,210	-	-	53,000	64,100	84,300	86,300	91,800
Asia:												
French Indochina	13,505 d/	14,020	-	-	- d/	22.5	-	281,497 d/	316,038	-	-	-
Siam	7,141	7,088	-	-	(4,900)	30.1	(29.6)	231,402	213,079	-	-	(145,000)
Burma	12,770	12,671	-	-	6,790	27.5	19.8	358,219	348,534	-	- c/	230,000 134,455
China c/	d/ 47,099 d/	48,161	-	-	- d/	52.5	-	d/ 2,345,574	2,623,383	-	-	2,160,000
Free China	- d/	36,926	34,788	35,014	34,213	50.8	49.1	- d/	1,992,394	1,574,478	1,736,779	1,679,770
Manchuria	474	879	-	-	-	38.5	-	14,853	33,787	33,950	38,016	-
Japan	7,887	7,862	-	-	-	75.8	-	557,217	595,845	574,151	535,236	392,724
Korea	4,112	3,837	3,718	-	-	48.9	-	157,607	187,532	171,094	149,533	(180,000)
Formosa	1,609	1,616	1,508	1,485	-	53.0	-	75,337	85,704	72,030	68,339 c/	44,600
Philippine Islands	4,643	4,918	-	-	-	22.2	-	103,939	109,385	-	- c/	75,000
British Malaya	740	748	-	-	-	36.3	-	25,333	27,138	-	-	20,300
Netherlands Indies e/	9,140 d/	9,716	-	-	- d/	31.6	-	276,935 d/	306,930	286,400	-	-
India f/	70,288	72,707	81,117	80,754	(80,900)	26.2	-	1,995,645	1,904,819	2,291,858	2,027,125	-
Ceylon c/	865	870	1,020	1,100	-	18.4	-	14,300	16,000	14,600	12,900	(8,000)
Iran	d/ 560 d/	534	-	-	- d/	34.8	-	d/ 22,413 d/	18,577	-	18,242	20,727
Iraq	d/ 316 d/	386	-	-	370 d/	27.3	33.0 d/	7,750	11,176	13,717	13,700	12,200
Turkey	66	78	-	-	-	39.1	-	2,220	3,050	2,638	4,296	3,721
Others	(9,100)	(10,850)	-	-	-	-	-	(295,500)	(323,600)	-	-	-
Estimated total g/	190,310	196,940	193,000	193,000	187,000	-	-	6,765,700	7,124,600	6,804,000	6,384,000	5,636,000

Europe:												
Italy	343	362	376	314	239	103.9	63.6	32,662	37,620	31,496	24,275	15,200
Spain	117	(110)	119	118	119	-	(86.6)	14,558	(10,600)	10,199 c/	(12,300) c/	(10,300)
Portugal	39	50	64	61	-	68.0	-	1,740	3,398	3,627	3,116	2,200
Bulgaria	18	19	30	19	18	54.8	38.8	791	1,041	1,389	881	698
Others	(3)	(10)	-	-	-	-	-	(150)	(400)	-	-	-
Estimated total	520	550	610	530	440	-	-	49,900	53,100	48,000	41,900	29,800
Africa:												
Egypt	352	463	667	643	665	71.6	63.8	20,876	33,155	33,570	39,908	42,454
French West Africa	1,065 d/	1,562	-	-	-	d/	13.4	-	18,087 d/	20,936	-	-
Sierra Leone	307	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,015	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,354	1,195	1,174	1,334	1,433	28.3	26.3	34,166	33,823	32,088	31,354	37,722
Others	(330)	(520)	-	-	-	-	-	(5,900)	(6,700)	-	-	-
Estimated total	3,410	4,100	4,500	4,600	4,700	-	-	88,000	103,700	111,000	117,000	125,000
Oceania:												
Australia	21	23	41	25	-	98.7	-	1,629	2,117	3,747	1,547	-
Others	(10)	(20)	(10)	(20)	-	-	-	(600)	(600)	(700)	(800)	-
Estimated total	30	40	50	40	50	-	-	2,200	2,700	4,400	2,300	3,000
South America:												
Brazil	2,074	2,329	-	-	-	28.5	-	58,970	66,449	-	-	-
Argentina	25	52	128	128	122	59.8	63.5	1,054	3,112	8,559	6,807	7,750
Chile	- d/	26	88	110	118 d/	81.1	49.0	18	1,299	7,340	7,862	5,778
Colombia	d/ 114	-	-	-	-	-	-	d/	2,508	3,378	5,901	5,923	-
Peru	126	107	145	-	-	42.8	-	4,551	4,578	6,761	6,400	-
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,212	3,439	3,075	4,850	-
Uruguay	3	13	13	13	-	66.6	-	d/	284	866	849	1,206	-
British Guiana	79	70	86	93	-	50.8	-	3,445	3,559	4,362	4,912	-
Surinam	d/ 29	37	29	31	35	46.0	49.3	1,078	1,703	1,577	1,685	1,724
Others	(30)	(50)	(80)	(80)	-	-	-	(900)	(1,000)	(1,800)	(1,800)	-
Estimated total	2,580	2,990	4,400	4,500	4,700	-	-	75,000	89,400	123,200	135,400	144,000
Estimated world total	198,100	206,100	205,000	205,000	199,000	-	-	7,034,000	7,438,000	7,200,000	6,800,000	6,200,000

Compiled from official sources, except as noted, and the International Institute of Agriculture. Figures shown in parentheses are estimations of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

a/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in southern Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. b/ Preliminary. c/ Unofficial. d/ Less than 5-year average. e/ Java and Madura only. Remainder included in estimated total for Asia. f/ Includes figures for areas regularly reported only, comprising about 92 percent of the total rice area of India. Official estimates for unreported areas included in estimated total for Asia. g/ Includes estimates for the Soviet Union.

supply the amount consumed, as net imports averaged 800 million pounds during the same period. In comparison with China's huge deficit this year, rice available for import from other countries is insignificant.

Droughts in parts of India caused a decreased in the 1945-46 production which is reported at almost 5 billion pounds less than last year, and slightly smaller than the prewar average output. By means of a larger acreage, India's increased wartime production was about sufficient to supply domestic needs in the past 2 years. However, because of the poor 1945-46 crop in Provinces of southern India, particularly in Madras, production was approximately equal to prewar, when net imports were from 2 to 3 billion pounds annually.

Japan's rice crop of 392,724,000 bushels (14 billion pounds brown) was below prewar by 203 million bushels (7 billion pounds). The harvest was the poorest in 40 years as a result of typhoons, fertilizer shortages, and drought. In addition to the decrease in domestic production, imports were not available this year from Korea and Formosa. Before the war these amounted to 4 billion pounds annually.

The decline in the Philippine Islands production to only 70 percent of the prewar 109,385,000 bushels (3.4 billion pounds) resulted in a shortage of 1 billion pounds for consumption in 1946. The Philippines, which formerly imported about 4 percent of its rice consumption, will be very short of rice before the next harvest beginning in November.

In Ceylon, British Malaya, and the Netherlands Indies, whose combined net imports before the war totaled 3 billion pounds annually, production is estimated at 4 billion pounds below average prewar, the result of drought in Ceylon and disorganization arising from the war in the latter two countries.

In Europe, the harvesting of small crops not only made rice exports impossible in 1946 but caused domestic consumption to fall below average. The outturn in Italy was almost one-half of prewar, showing a drop of 17,300,000 bushels (500 million pounds) from the prewar 37,620,000 bushels (1,100 million pounds), because of decreased acreage, fertilizer, and labor shortages. Crops in Spain and Portugal were also smaller than prewar as a result of reduced acreages and fertilizer shortages.

Total production in the Western Hemisphere during the 1945-46 season is forecast at 235 million bushels 6.9 billion pounds milled), compared with 220 million bushels (6.4 billion pounds) last year and 150 million bushels (4.4 billion pounds) before the war. Although the gain in production has been outstanding during the war as a result of increased acreage in all countries capable of growing rice, the outturn this year is only 4 percent of the world's total crop. Exports outside the Western Hemisphere, a net exporter of rice for the first time in 1942, may be from 600 to 800 million pounds during 1946, depending on supplies of other cereals available for consumption. Despite the largest production in history, rice consumption in the importing countries of the Western

Hemisphere, especially in the Caribbean, is expected to drop substantially, since all possible rice supplies are scheduled for shipment to Asiatic countries.

In North America, a record crop was produced, the result of increased acreage and favorable weather in most countries. Production in the United States exceeded former harvests for the fourth successive year. Exports from this crop from August through March amounted to 520 million pounds, compared with 365 million during the corresponding months of 1944-45. A record crop also was harvested in Mexico. Although this country formerly exported rice, this crop is insufficient to fulfill increased demands during 1946. The Central American Republics, except Panama, also harvested large crops, which in some countries satisfied home needs for the first time and in others permitted comparatively small exports to nearby importers.

In South America rice acreage was increased during 1945-46. Preliminary forecasts of crops harvested principally from March to July indicated larger crops than last year in Brazil and Ecuador, where prospects are from fair to favorable. The Argentine outturn exceeded that of the preceding year, and good crops are reported in importing countries. Owing to bad weather in Chile, however, the crop was the smallest in 4 years. The total exportable surplus available from South America depends to a large extent on the increased volume of rice that is consumed domestically in Brazil in place of wheat supplies, which are below normal in that country. The amount available for export from Brazil and Ecuador during 1946 is reported larger than last year, but that from Chile may be smaller.

In Africa, the 1945-46 production, estimated at 125 million bushels (3.7 billion pounds), exceeded that of the year before by about 8 million bushels (230 million pounds). The estimate of the exportable supplies from Egypt was raised to 440 million pounds in early 1946, owing to a larger crop than was first expected. Madagascar's production also was revised upward late in the season and relatively small supplies there may be increased.

In 1946-47 world rice production is expected to increase. Insofar as seeds, fetilizers, farm animals, and implements are available and economic conditions are stabilized in the Far East, acreage will be replanted. Acreage may also be increased in the European producing countries. Because of the present world demand, the acreage to be planted in the Western Hemisphere and Africa will probably be continued at a relatively high level.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, chairman, C. M. Purves, Fred J. Rossiter, L. Thelma Willahan, and Kathryn Wylie.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS 1/

FRANCE'S GRAIN PROSPECTS GOOD

Increased seedlings of breadgrains, but slightly smaller feedgrain acreage than last year's, are indicated for France, on the basis of present reports. The crop outlook was reported good in mid-May, though some areas needed rain. No official forecast of the crop is available, but trade estimates place wheat production at 260 to 290 million bushels, provided there is no frost during May. Current forecasts compare with the unofficial estimate of 185 million bushels for the 1945 outturn.

Though larger than a year ago, the wheat and rye acreages reported are still considerably below average. Total wheat acreage is now placed at 10.1 million acres, compared with about 9.4 million acres in 1945 and with the 5-year (1935-1939) average of 12.6 million. The bulk of the wheat acreage in France is winter grain, about 97 percent for this season.

The current winter rye area, reported at 974,000 acres, is larger than the estimated area of 940,000 acres for all rye a year earlier, but compares with the 5-year (1935-1939) average of 1,614,000 acres. The condition of rye seedings was good, though slightly less favorable at the beginning of May than the condition of other grains.

The barley acreage is reported at about 1.6 million acres, compared with 1.7 million acres a year earlier. Of the total, 1,240,000 acres are reported as spring seedings. The acreage seeded to oats is reported at 5,799,000 acres, or about 6 percent less than the 1945 acreage. Spring seedings represent about 78 percent of the total.

FRANCE: Grain acreage, 1946 with comparisons

Grain	Average 1935-1939	1943	1944	1945 a/	1946
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Wheat	12,560	10,736	10,378	9,390	10,085
Rye	1,614	1,075	1,013	940	b/ 974
Barley	1,897	1,705	1,505	1,730	1,642
Oats	8,089	5,967	5,535	6,150	5,799

From official and unofficial sources.
a/ Unofficial estimates. b/ Winter seedings, only.

1/ This section is continued on page 333.

FATS AND OILS

CHINA AGAIN SHIPS TUNG OIL TO U. S.

During 1946 exports of tung oil from China, which were cut off during the war, are expected to total about 25,000 short tons, according to recent estimates. Up to 1937 the United States imported approximately 70 percent of China's total tung-oil shipments, which averaged 89,000 tons in 1933-1937.

China is the world's foremost producer of tung oil. Although fairly significant tung industries have been developed in the United States, Latin America, and Africa in recent years, the combined production of these countries is probably less than 10 percent of China's output.

Tung trees have been grown in China for a number of centuries, mainly in the Provinces of Szechwan, Hunan, Chekiang, and Hupeh. Of the two leading types of tung, the Aleurites fordii, the more hardy species, indigenous to Central and Western China, makes up over 80 percent of the total number of trees in China. In South China, principally in Kwangsi Province, the A. Montana is grown extensively. Commercially there is no distinction made between the oil of the two species.

TOBACCO

CUBA MAY FORCE TOBACCO EXPORTS

A high official of the Cuban Government recently suggested a plan whereby certain countries purchasing sugar in Cuba would be required to buy tobacco in order to obtain supplies of sugar. The plan was submitted in a memorandum to the President of Cuba, and has the support of the Tobacco Growers' Association.

Under this plan, countries buying Cuban sugar from the 1947 world-free export quota, which would probably amount to 300,000 long tons, would be required to purchase, in addition to their normal tobacco imports from Cuba, 50 pounds of leaf tobacco or the equivalent in cigars or cigarettes, for each ton of sugar. Reexportation of such tobacco would not be allowed. Using 300,000 tons of sugar as a base, the plan would imply that Cuba expects to force the sale of about 15 million pounds of surplus leaf from the 1945-46 crop.

If the plan is carried out, certain countries directly importing Cuban sugar from the 1947 crop, would be required to take such additional amounts of leaf tobacco as are indicated in the table given below, assuming that the quantity of sugar sold to each country in 1947 would be about the same as in 1946.

CUBA: Quantities of tobacco that may be forced on countries buying Cuban sugar, as compared to average exports 1936-1940

Country of destination	Average exports 1936-1940			Possible additional tobacco exports in conjunction with sugar in 1947	
	Quantity		Total value b/	Quantity	Value c/
	Leaf a/	Cigars			
	Pounds	Thousand	1,000 dollars	Pounds	1,000 dollars
Mexico	209	14	2	6,080,287	2,688
Chile	214,276	197	90	3,040,143	1,344
Colombia	225	9	1	1,216,939	538
Venezuela	0	10	2	1,825,409	806
Bolivia	150	7	1	365,964	161
Costa Rica	0	6	1	379,191	168
Honduras	0	2	d/	456,352	202
Panama	390	251 e/	44	304,235	134
Uruguay	333,005	76	157	90,389	40
Argentina	954,180	549	477	1,216,939	538
Ecuador	18,245	13	3	227,074	101
Total	1,520,680	1,134	778	15,202,922	6,720

Consular sources.
a/ Unstemmed equivalent. b/ Includes smoking tobacco and cigarettes.
c/ Figured at the rate of 1 cent tobacco value for each pound of sugar.
d/ Less than 500. e/ Includes $33,000 worth of cigarettes.

EIRE IMPORTS
MORE TOBACCO

Leaf tobacco imports into Eire in 1945 totaled 14.2 million pounds, compared with 9.9 million in 1944 and the 5-year (1935-1939) average of 11.1 million. Of total leaf imports in 1945, about 13.7 million, or 96 percent, were of United States origin. Most of the remainder was imported from British East Africa. In 1945, cigarette imports, chiefly from Canada and the United States, amounted to 180,000 pounds. Imports of all other tobacco manufactures totaled about 9,000 pounds.

Eire depends upon foreign sources of supply for most of its tobacco requirements. In 1945, only 95 acres were planted to tobacco compared with 109 acres in 1944. During the period 1935-1939, tobacco production average 314,000 pounds annually from 543 acres. This steady decline in tobacco plantings in recent years is attributed to the farmers' interest in growing other crops which find ready markets at favorable prices.

INDIA TO EXPAND
TOBACCO RESEARCH

At a meeting of the Indian Central Tobacco Committee, held recently in New Delhi, plans were formulated for the establishment of a number of

new tobacco research stations. It was decided to open a station at Rajahmundry, in Madras Presidency, for work on flue-cured leaf and to establish a Central Research Station for all types of tobacco at Guntur, the present center of the flue-cured industry in India. Other new stations to be set up will work on native tobacco types.

The Committee also decided to encourage development of flue-cured tobacco production in Bihar Province and to send two students abroad for studies in tobacco cultivation. Information on cultivation, curing, and marketing of tobacco is to be disseminated by the issuance of pamphlets in nontechnical language.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES ON FOREIGN MARKETS

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths and qualities in specified markets

Market, location, kind, and quality	Date 1946	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	5-16	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	31.75	26.50
Giza 7	5-16	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	36.75	30.67
Karnak	5-16	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	36.00	30.05
Bombay			Candy		
Jarila, fine	5-16	784 lbs.	Rupee	465.00	17.90
Kampala, East African	5-16	784 lbs.	Rupee	850.00	32.72
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	5-18	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1,850.00	24.98
Lima		Sp.quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	5-18	101.4 lbs.	Sol	135.00	20.48
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	5-17	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	95.00	15.41
Sertao, Type 5	5-17	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	100.00	16.22
Sao Paulo		Arroba			
Sao Paulo, Type 5	5-17	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	120.50	19.55
Torreon		Sp.quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	5-17	101.4 lbs.	Peso	100.50	20.39

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

BANANA EXPORTS TO U. S. INCREASING

Banana imports into the United States during 1945 totaled 40 million bunches, 28 percent more than in 1944 and 64 percent more than in 1943,

the low year for the war period, according to a recent report on world banana production and trade which may be obtained upon request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

Imports during 1946 are expected to continue this upward trend in view of the fact that cultivation conditions are improving and many plantations are gradually being restored to production. Demand for bananas in the next few years probably will continue to exceed the supply at the present level of ceiling prices. Even before the war, production declined slightly owing to disease, and during the war was curtailed further, largely for lack of shipping. Complete restoration of plantations may take several years.

The United States is the world's largest importer of bananas, taking more than half of the tonnage moving normally in international trade and four-fifths of the volume during the war years. Imports into this country totaled 63 million bunches in 1937, but dropped to a low of 22 million in 1943.

World banana exports were at a record level in 1937, with 120 million bunches entering foreign trade in that year. With the outbreak of war, exports fell to 94 million bunches in 1939 and continued to decline until 1943 when only 30 million bunches were exported. With improved shipping conditions, exports rose to 35 million bunches in 1944 and to 40 million in 1945.

World production of bananas in commercial areas is estimated at around 300 million stems. During 1934-1944 the Western Hemisphere produced an average of 83 percent of all bananas entering international trade, while Africa, Asia, and Oceania accounted for the remaining 17 percent.

MEXICAN LIME CROP LARGER

Mexico's lime production for 1946 is a forecast at 1,102,000 boxes, 5 percent above the 1945 crop of 1,047,000 boxes and 4 percent larger than the 5-year (1940-1944) average of 1,057,000 boxes. In Michoacan, the most important lime-producing State, the crop will be about the same as in 1945, but in Colima, second in importance, a 10-percent rise in production is expected.

New plantings in San Luis Potosi will probably increase production in 1947 to 248,000 boxes from 96,000 in 1946, and growers believe that in a few years, this State may rise to first place in production.

In 1945 lime exports amounted to 15,000 boxes but will probably be above that amount in 1946. In addition, about 90 percent of Mexico's output of lime oil is exported, principally to the United States. In 1945, 44,000 tons were exported, a decrease of 4 percent from the 46,000 in 1944.

CUBA'S VEGETABLE
EXPORTS SHOW RISE

Cuba's final shipment of tomatoes for the 1945-46 season amounted to 650,000 pounds, compared with 451,000 in the previous year and the 3-year average (1939-1941) of 3,094,000 pounds. Total exports for the season amounted to 34.2 million pounds, about three times as much as the 11.9 million in the previous season but 42 percent less than the 3-year (1939-1941) average of 58.6 million pounds. Eggplant shipments through April amounted to 1,086,000 pounds, seven times more than in the previous season but only about a fifth of the 3-year (1939-1941) average.

Total vegetable shipments to date amount to 39.6 million pounds, compared with 13.1 million for the same period last year and 82.9 million for the 3-year (1939-1941) average.

ORANGE PRODUCTION
SMALLER IN MEXICO

Orange production in Mexico during 1946 will be slightly below the 1945 crop of 7,558,000 boxes. Despite an increase of about 10 percent in the number of bearing trees in the important producing region of Montemorelos and advanced maturity of many trees in this and other regions, unfavorable weather conditions during early months of 1946 are expected to result in some decrease in production. There were no exports during 1944 and 1945 since, next to bananas, oranges are the most widely consumed of all fruits in Mexico.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

ARGENTINE BEEF
EXPORTS LAG

Argentine beef exports in 1946 will scarcely more than equal the 1945 level, according to indications at the end of the first 4 months. Inadequate rains in the main grazing zones prior to mid-December depleted feed reserves. Earlier prospects for a 20-percent increase in beef exports in 1946 over that in 1945 have almost been eliminated by insufficient moisture and a 25-day packinghouse strike in March.

Furthermore, movement of cattle to the fattening area in the western part of the Province of Buenos Aires has been slow owing to considerable distrust of the weather after several poor seasons, and a tendency on the part of some "estancieros" to permit more of their land to be used for grain production due to the sharp rise in grain prices. Reflecting the attitude of the fatteners toward replacement stock, light feeder steers are bringing only about two-thirds of the price obtained some months ago. Heavier feeder animals, on the other hand, are moving a little better.

Owing to the high prices demanded by breeders some months ago, more cattle than usual remained in the breeding areas of southern Buenos Aires Province, and together with the new crop of calves, have caused this area to be relatively overstocked. As a result, some semifinished cattle have recently been coming to market from this source. There has also been a recent pickup in cow and heifer marketings, indicating that any tendency for herds to increase may have been arrested. Even in the breeding area, prices have reduced the acreage of grain pastured.

Taking all factors into consideration, it is likely that cattle numbers in Argentina will drop somewhat from the relatively high level of 34 million head in mid-1945. Marketings of light-weight cattle will tend to lower the beef output.

SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL IN BRISK MOVEMENT

Declared exports to the United States in the first 10 months (July-April) of the current season reached 105 million pounds, compared with 18 million pounds a year earlier. This is the largest quantity ever shipped to the United States from South Africa even during an entire season. From the beginning of the season to March 31, a little over 1 million bales (289 million pounds) were sold, nearly 50 percent of which was for the United States, reports disclose.

Complete export returns for 1944-45 (July-June) show that 90 million pounds were shipped out. The United Kingdom took 46 million and the United States 19 million. Of the total quantity going to continental Europe, Spain took 18 million and Portugal 4 million pounds.

A reduction of approximately 14 percent in purchases by the British Wool Commission during the first 10 months of the current season as compared with the same period last season confirms earlier estimates of a further decrease in wool production this season, since that organization is buying the entire clip.

Purchases fell off towards the end of the long wool season in March but may increase again when the short wool (fall clip) arrives in April and May. As a result of drought which adversely affected wool during the growing season in 1945 and caused losses of stock, production this season may be at least 10 percent smaller than in 1944-45. Thus, production for the 1945-46 season may be below the preliminary estimate of 228 million pounds (Foreign Crops and Markets, December 3, 1945). Production in 1944-45 was 234 million pounds, compared with an average prewar (1934-1938) output of 239 million pounds.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Exports according to principal destinations, 1944-45 with comparisons

Principal destination	Average 1934-1938	1943-44	1944-45 revised
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	2	20	19
United Kingdom	44	28	46
Continental Europe	a/ 157	-	b/ 22
Japan	21	-	-
All others	7	4	3
Total	231	52	90

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 1, 1946, for seasons 1939-40 - 1942-43).

a/ This includes the following quantities to principal countries in million of pounds: Germany 64; France 50; Belgium 21; Italy 16; Poland 3; all others 77; total 231.

b/ Principal destinations were as follows, in millions of pounds: Spain 18; Portugal 4.

CUBAN MILK PRODUCERS TO BE PAID SUBSIDY

The Cuban Government, in a decree issued on April 23, 1946, established a subsidy of $1.10 per 100 pounds of refined sugar used in the manufacture of condensed milk. Payment will be made in the form of tax exemption certificates. By this means, condenseries will be compensated for the recent increase in the Cuban domestic price of refined sugar, and at the same time it will permit condensed milk to be sold at the established price of 14 cents a can. The date on which the subsidy becomes effective, February 1, 1946, coincides with the date of this increase.

Condensed milk production between February 1 and the end of the year is forecast at 630,000 cases. On the basis of 18 pounds of sugar to each case of 48 14-ounce tins, about 11 million pounds of sugar would be involved under this decree. The total subsidy which the Government would pay on this quantity would amount to about $125,000.

GERMAN HOG NUMBERS SHOW UPWARD TREND

An early March hog census in the United States Zone in Germany indicates an increase in total sow numbers and in bred sows. This points to a much larger 1946 pig production than last year and toward an increased hog population at the end of 1946 under present rates of slaughter. The increase in bred sows is larger than for any previous March since 1939, indicating that the downward trend in production in the United States Zone is now reversed.

Total hogs in the United States Zone on March 3, 1946, numbered 1,795,000 head, compared with 2,204,000 in last December. This decline, however, is seasonal and is attributed to an unusally sharp reduction in the numbers of pigs being fattened.

Total chickens on the same date are reported at 10,990,000 compared with 11,174,000 last December. The decline is largely seasonal.

Comparative figures for livestock numbers in the United States Zone from 1939 to date are indicated in the table given below.

GERMANY: Livestock numbers in United States Zone, March 1946 and December 1945 with comparative data

Classification	December 1939	United States Zone						
	Total Germany 1945 boundaries	United States Zone	December 1940	December 1941	December 1942	December 1943	December 1945	March 1946
	Thousand head	Thousand head	Thousand head	Thousand head	Thousand head	Thousand head	Thousand head	Thousand head
Total cattle	19,948	5,421	5,269	5,177	5,117	5,317	5,147	a/
Cows	10,118	2,626	2,611	2,603	2,628	2,695	2,644	a/
Hogs	25,240	4,294	3,732	3,291	2,876	3,078	2,204	1,795
Sheep	4,852	975	982	982	1,062	1,195	1,066	a/
Horses	3,023	438	443	443	436	438	511	a/
Goats	2,306	568	520	482	485	a/	473	a/
Chickens	97,400	20,044	19,296	16,464	15,037	a/	11,174	10,990
Geese	5,288	1,192	1,215	1,173	1,121	a/	979	a/

Compiled from official sources.
a/ Not available.

CUBA REMOVES DUTIES ON U. S. EGG IMPORTS

By a decree of March 29, 1946, the Cuban Government waived import duties, consular fees, and all taxes on fresh eggs imported from the United States. This edict permits the entry of 30,000 cases of 30 dozen eggs each duty-free, provided that they are brought in before December 31, 1946. These eggs will be allocated among importers upon the authority of the Minister of Commerce. A year ago, purchasing difficulties prevented the importation of the full quantity of 20,000 cases authorized under a similar decree in March 1945.

Under this latest decree, Cuban importers are permitted to purchase eggs in the United States in the flush spring season. While it is believed that these eggs probably will be held in cold storage in the

United States for shipment in November and December when there is an acute seasonal shortage of eggs in Cuba, there is a possibility that the eggs will be shipped to Cuba as soon as importers receive the authorization of the Ministry of Commerce. These eggs may be put up for immediate retail sale since there is nothing in the decree to prevent this. Nor can importers be expected to hold eggs in storage for future sale when at the present time they may be sold at retail in Cuba at prices as high as 85 cents a dozen.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS (con't)

BELGIUM AGAIN CUTS DAILY BREAD RATION

The Belgian Government, in a further move to decrease breadgrain requirements, has reduced the daily basic bread ration to 350 grams from the former level of 400 grams, except for certain categories of heavy workers. This is the third cut in bread rations since March. The bread ration constitutes about 54 percent of the basic ration of 1,857 calories. The change, which is expected to effect a saving of 10,000 tons of wheat per month, became effective May 10, the beginning of a new ration period.

Additional restrictions made it possible to get bread in restaurants only against bread ration stamps. It is available for only 6 days a week, the seventh being a breadless day. Sales of pastry are to be reduced sharply, with sales of cakes in tea rooms and restaurants forbidden. Earlier measures made admixture of 10 percent of rye with wheat flour compulsory. The present extraction rate of 83 percent is based on the weight of uncleaned grain and is considered by the Belgians to be higher than 85 percent where the rate is computed on cleaned grain.

LATE NEWS (con't)

The 1945-46 Chilean rice crop recently harvested is reported down 30 percent from the first official forecast. The final estimate is 5,778,000 bushels (170 million pounds milled), 27 percent smaller than the record production of 7,862 bushels (230 million pounds) a year ago.

A record Ecuadoran rice crop is expected from the May-August harvest. The 1946 outturn, benefited by continued favorable weather, is forecast at 10 million bushels (300 million pounds milled) in comparison with the previous largest crop of 7,600,000 bushels (220 million pounds)in 1943.